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Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

When I first heard about SB 306, my first reaction was, Who do they think they are that they can subvert the will of the people ?"

We voted not once but twice to stop cyanide heap leach mining because it was a danger to the air, water, animals and humans. That hasn't changed. This bill would cancel the intent of our voter based initiatives.

My calmer side decided maybe you weren't arrogant, lacking respect for your bosses -the voters, and in the miners' pocket but maybe you were simply ignorant of what mining entail. So I'll attempt to educate you a little.

Mining - even without cyanide is a destructive process. It uncovers and crushes rocks that contain many minerals and acids. When these are exposed to air and water it produces "acid rock drainage". I googled acid rock drainage and this is what it said "What is acid drainage ? When rock surfaces are exposed to air and rain , a reaction can occur with the elements in the rock which results in a change in the characteristics of the water that drains off. If the rock contains sulphides, a natural oxidation process can acidify the water. This is known as acid drainage or , acid mine drainage (AMD). As the water becomes more acidic, its capacity to leach out other elements from the rock, such as metals, increases. The resulting drainage can become very acidic and contain a number of harmful constituents. In some cases, elements from the rock can leach out into contact water without acidification and result in water contamination - this is known as metal leaching(ML). In either case, polluted water drains away from the exposed rock and can have significant impacts on surrounding water bodies (rivers, lakes, coastal areas, groundwater) and the wildlife or people who come in contact with these sources.

Although this is a natural process, mining activities can trigger this phenomenon by exposing large surface areas of rock to water and oxygen. Rock is exposed on the walls of open pits and underground structures - but the most significant newly exposed rock surfaces are in the fragmented pieces of waste rock that are removed from the ground and placed in dumps."

During the hearings on the Zortman-Landusky mines I asked a BLM official what was causing the deer to loose hair, stagger and foam at the mouth - was it a disease ? He told me it was no disease. It came from drinking acid rock drainage.

Now imagine this slowly seeping into your drinking water well. If it can do that to the deer , it can also happen to humans.

Zortman-Landusky once had a beautiful mountain, with trees, Native American sacred sights, clear streams and healthy bird and animal populations. With mining the water in the creek ran a rust colored orange. What do they have today ? A chewed up mountain, no backfilled pit because the mining company said it cost too much to do so.

The jobs are gone and in their place are the costs of treating the poisoned, polluted, water forever. Whatever financial benefits and jobs people said the mine would provide are

overshadowed by the costs that are minings' legacy. The price is too high !
And now after hearing just a little of what happens with mining,
you still vote in favor of SB 306 over all of our objections, I'll have to believe
my first reaction was the right one. Remember that you
serve with the consent of the people and if you have no respect for their decisions you can be
recalled. The voters have made it clear twice that we do not want this, nor do we want our
mountains destroyed and trucked to another polluted sight. Remember we put you in office, and
we can take you back out ! Thank you!

